

THE SCUTTLEBUTT CHRONICLES

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VSO Quarterly Newsletter

Volume No. 4, October, November, December 2019

Message from the VSO: Army Veteran, Celestina Traver M.A.

As I look back on 2019, I am amazed at all the goals we have met. We have upgraded our grounds with red, white and blue blooming bushes and added flowers. We added a fresh coat of paint to our monument and seating area. Our lobby also has gone through some upgrade with new seating, privacy blinds for the large window and we started fresh coffee and Danish's in the mornings. Our TV is a nice touch to pass the time while waiting to see your Vet Rep. Our staff is growing. We have 2 new VSR's; Tyler and Nora. They are currently being trained and will be serving veterans shortly. Our office has not one but two office assistants to greet and serve you as you walk in. We also started this newsletter which seems to be a great hit in our community. As we go through our last 3 months for this year, I want to shout out a big THANK YOU to all our supporters in the community, stakeholders and other Shasta County Departments that help up make our VSO successful. As you can see on our stats page, we have been very busy filing and winning claims. Our office has a great team that all work together for the common goal of getting our veterans their benefits. I wish everyone a great holiday season and Happy New Year. Cheers to an even better 2020!

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Rotisserie Chicken and Potato Chowder

Ingredients:

4 slices bacon, chopped
1 tbsp. unsalted butter
1 leek (white and light green parts), halved and sliced
2 cloves garlic, pressed
1 tsp. fennel seeds, crushed
2 tbsp. all-purpose flour
2 c. whole milk
4 c. chicken stock
3/4 lb. red potatoes cut into 1/2-inch chunks
6 sprigs thyme
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
2 c. shredded rotisserie chicken
1 c. frozen corn, thawed
Sliced fresh chives, for serving

Directions:

Cook bacon in a large pot over medium heat until browned and crisp, 7 to 8 minutes; transfer to a paper towel-lined plate with a slotted spoon. Reserve pot. Add butter and leek to reserved pot. Cook, stirring occasionally, until just tender, 3 to 4 minutes. Add garlic and fennel. Cook, stirring, until fragrant, 1 minute. Add flour and cook, stirring, 1 minute. Slowly whisk in milk and then stock. Add potatoes and thyme. Season with salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer until potatoes are tender, 14 to 16 minutes. Add chicken and corn. Cook until soup is heated through, 1 to 2 minutes. Discard thyme. Serve topped with crispy bacon and chives.

• HAPPY 
THANKSGIVING

BE AWARE SCAM BE AWARE SCAM

According to a recent AARP survey, veterans are twice as likely to fall victim to scammers as the population at large. Some scammers offer veterans the opportunity to refinance VA loans at extremely low rates. Others will pose as government agencies in order to access personal information, or offer lump sum payments up front, in exchange for signing over all their future monthly benefit checks. There have even been instances where scammers will create fake charities that target veterans or pretend to be old friends offering “sure thing” investments.

BE AWARE

Be cautious if someone offers to move your assets around for you to qualify for VA pension. This type of scam is often directed toward Veterans and family members who do not actually qualify for VA pension. You could be required to repay these benefits to the government.

Examples of possible pension poaching scams:

Organizations that cold call Veterans, charge money for assisting with a VA pension claim, and take credit card information from Veterans over the telephone.

People who charge as much as \$6,000 upfront to represent claimants before VA, with a percentage of any eventual back payment from VA as a portion of the ultimate fee.

For more information about VA pension eligibility requirements—which include special monthly pension benefits—go to www.benefits.va.gov/pension or call 1-800-827-1000.

Scammers like to use “buzz” words to catch your attention!
How many times is the word “VA” used in this NON- VA letter?

BE AWARE



Lender: FREYNE DAVID M & MARGARET L
Pre-Qualification #: [REDACTED]

Not a real lender

VA Eligibility Notice
Address Change? Please contact our
Customer Service Department.

Questions?
Call Dept. of Records at
1-877-799-8276



529

Notice Date: August 2nd, 2019

Credit Reference N [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject Property Address: [REDACTED]
VA File #: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

As a VA loan holder, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs allows you to combine your mortgage and other debt PLUS get an additional **\$31,729** cash in hand for a new payment of **\$1,265.00** per month at **3.125% (3.329% APR)**. If this is lower than your combined payments, please call us immediately.

We've done our homework. You already have what it takes to qualify. A new loan enables you to defer up to 2 mortgage payments and have no out of pocket closing costs.

FREYNE DAVID M & MARGARET L	Additional Cash:	Proposed Loan Amount:	New Debt Free Payment:	Credit Approval Number:
\$263,523	\$31,729	\$295,252	\$1,265.00	[REDACTED]

Remember there is no cost or obligation. We cannot begin this process without your authorization so call 877-799-8276 by August 23rd, 2019 to secure a low fixed rate. It's definitely worth 5 minutes of your time.

This process only takes 2 weeks.

Loan Specialist & Dept.
of Records?

Government Loan Specialist
Toll Free 1-877-799-8276



You can choose to stop receiving "prescreened" offers of credit from this and other companies by calling toll free 1-888-567-8688. See **PRESCREEN & OPT-OUT NOTICE** on the back side for more information about prescreened offers.

Secure One Capital Corp. 555 Anton Blvd, Suite 900 Costa Mesa, CA 92626 NMLS # 239738

** Full disclosure on other side**

Clearly NOT the VA

00017R3R2

STAND DOWN 2019

October 24, 25, 26

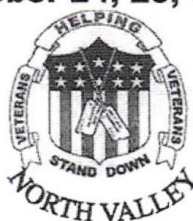


North Valley Stand Down Association

STAND DOWN 2019

October 24, 25, & 26

*"For All
Homeless
Veterans"*



*"A Hand Up,
Not A
Hand Out"*

**Shasta District Fairgrounds - Inside Fusaro Hall & Trinity
Hall Hwy 273 in Anderson California**

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8 AM Thursday & Friday

*Homeless Veterans: women and men, active duty personnel, veterans and their
significant others are welcome!*

FREE COMMUNITY SERVICES AVAILABLE AT THIS EVENT

- TEMPORARY HOMELESS SHELTER
(For Veterans & their Families & Pets)
- FOOD
- JOB SERVICES & UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE INFORMATION
- MEDICAL SERVICES
- COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
- SOCIAL SECURITY
- SHASTA CO. WOMENS REFUGE
- PETS MUST REGISTER BY 1PM
ON FRIDAY
- EVENT TRANSPORTATION(see chart below)
- CHILD SUPPORT

**NO CLOTHING ISSUE UNTIL
AFTER NOON ON FRIDAY
FOR WALK INS.**

- DRIVER LICENSE & IDENTIFICATION
INFORMATION – DMV
- DRUG & ALCOHOL COUNSELING
- VETERANS ADMINISTRATION BENEFIT
INFORMATION
- GENERAL ASSISTANCE / CALWORKS &
FOOD STAMPS
- ENTERTAINMENT & (MUCH MORE)
- CLOTHING & HYGIENE COMFOR KITS

ALL TRANSPORTATION ROUTES START AT THE FIRST STOP (1) AT 0800 – THURSDAY ONLY

NORTHERN ROUTE

1. Yreka, Fairgrounds at Armory
2. Mt. Shasta, Armory
3. Castella, Amereiti's
4. Shasta Lake,
Chevron Shasta Dam Blvd.

CENTRAL / WESTERN ROUTE

1. Hayfork, VFW Hall
2. Weaverville, Tops Market
3. Lake Blvd, Shopko Parking Lot
4. Redding, Post 1934 on Oregon St.
5. Redding, VA Clinic
6. Redding, Mission Hwy 273

SOUTHERN ROUTE

1. Oroville, Post 1747
2. Chico, Jesus Center
3. Chico, VA Clinic
4. Los Molinos
5. Red Bluff, Vets Hall

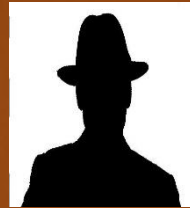
FOR MORE INFORMATION...CALL: (530) 605-8114

P.O. Box 492093 Redding, CA 96049-2093

www.northvalleystanddownassociation.org



“Just the Facts, Ma’am” “Just the facts”



Stats for the Shasta County VSO

**Case Load Per Representative
3,249**

**Veterans in Shasta County
15,634**

**College Tuition Fees Waived for
Disabled Veteran Dependents
\$316,926.00**

**Filed Cal Vet
Voc Rehab
42**

**Claims Filed
(January 2019– June 2019)
614**

**Retro Payment
\$1,818,065.96**

**Average C&P Award Per Claimant
\$22,373.00**

**Monthly Payment Annualized
Spent in our County
\$37,431,072.00**

**Total New Awards
FY 2017-2018
\$6,515,884.00**

**C&P Cases
FY 2017 – 2018
4,020**

The Celebrity Soup Kitchen is the annual fundraising event sponsored by the Older Adult Policy Council to support ***POWER TO SENIORS.***



Wednesday November 6th

4-7 pm

Senior Citizen Hall, 2290 Benton Dr. Redding, CA

Remember 100% of the proceeds will go to helping Shasta County seniors avoid utility shutoffs. Do your part to keep your elderly neighbors and friends warm this winter

Donate!

Write a check in any amount made out to Golden Umbrella with a note in the memo line indicating ***POWER TO SENIORS.***

Send to:

Golden Umbrella, 200 Mercy Oaks Dr. Redding, CA 96003



This year, the Shasta County Veterans Services Office will be participating in the Toys for Tots as a drop off center!

Help us make this season a joyous occasion for all children in need.

How you can help – Please donate a new, unwrapped toy valued at \$10 dollars or more.

The best donations are sporting goods, toy cars/planes/boats, dolls (Barbie..., G. I. Joe, etc.), board games, books, bicycles, scooters, puzzles, models, hand-held video games and small electronics.



RABA Salute to Veterans

*** A Call to Arms ***

There are many different types of public transportation here in Redding, but the largest and most cost effective is RABA covering areas of Shasta Lake, Redding and Anderson. RABA supports our community and our Military Veterans. Each year RABA in collaboration with the Shasta County Veterans Services Office and Corner Stone Bank raise funds to purchase free bus passes for our Veterans in Shasta County. Our Veterans use the passes for various reasons from going to the VA doctor appointments to getting to the grocery store and pharmacy. The money raised last year gave our office over 500 bus passes. On an average, we give out 45-65 bus passes a month, plus we also share the passes with our stakeholders; VA Hud Vash, VRC, and Faith Works.

Our homeless veterans really appreciate these passes.

***Attention- Call to Arms-We call to all Veterans and Volunteers to assist us
November 7th 2019- 6am – 1pm***

Sometimes a bus pass is the only thing that helps them get to and from their doctor and mental health services. Maintaining this existing service is vital for our office. Please partner with us and donate to the RABA Fund.

~Celestina Traver, M.A., VSO

The website where you can make donations is www.rabaveterans.com

Credit card donation online

(<http://www.shastarcf.org/funds/raba-salute-to-veterans-special-project-fund>)

Cash or check donation at the event.

Event details:

Date: Thursday, November 7th 2019

Time: 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: Cornerstone Community Bank
(192 Hartnell Ave, Redding, CA)

Cash donation at Cornerstone Community Bank
(Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Victim to Victor Story

**Many of us have a story to tell about how we
became the person we present to the world.
We see you- and we honor you**

To all who read this: DO NOT GIVE UP !!

I met Celestina Traver, M.A. the Shasta County Veterans Service Officer and the exceptional staff 6 1/2 years ago. I am a widow of a U.S. Navy Veteran who served 3 tours in Vietnam and during his service was exposed to Agent Orange. He was born and raised in Hawaii and is buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific locally known as Punchbowl Cemetery on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. When we met at the University in 1970, my to be husband was proud of his military service 1966-1969 (early release) and continued to be proud to have served until the day he passed away due to complications of Agent Orange. He never once complained or blamed the service. We married in 1975. We have two wonderful children, a son and daughter both married. We lost a father, father-in-law, a grandfather, my best friend, soulmate, and husband in May of 2013. In April of 2013 he and I agreed to process paperwork so that I might be able to receive Widows Benefits as we knew it would not be long before he would succumb. He told me "Never Give Up !!" At that time I did not know the journey I was embarking on to try to receive the benefits.

His service records (some) were destroyed in the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). This proved to be a huge disadvantage in trying to prove entitlement to Survivors Benefits. The burden to prove was on me. Brown Water and Presumptive Disease due to Agent Orange.

Celestina and the staff were there every step of the way. Side by side we searched. We submitted appeal after appeal (total 4 appeals) She sent pertinent information from legal case studies, navigational logs, ship movement, ship logs, duties (He was on a special 6 man team for the DASH Helicopter Drones), letters from Commanders etc. Each claim on the required legal forms and tracked. Our resource information/documentation encompassed (2) full Banker Boxes of research and information.

I was in the Shasta County Veterans Office so often that the staff knows me by my first name (Liz). 6 years and 3 months —July 2019 -I have received a letter that I am, as a surviving spouse, entitled to service connected death benefits called Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), because the veteran died from a service related disability (100%).

I continue to be grateful to Celestina and Shasta County VSO for their support and unwavering dedication assisting me in maneuvering through the Veterans Administration system.

I encourage all to stop by and allow Celestina and this phenomenal team to help you navigate and support you as they have and continue to do so for me.

**Thank you,
Liz —surviving spouse of US Navy Veteran**

Did You Know.....

THE NIGHT WITCHES

They flew under the cover of darkness in bare-bones plywood biplanes. They braved bullets and frostbite in the air, while battling skepticism and sexual harassment on the ground. They were feared and hated so much by the Nazi that any German airman who downed one was automatically awarded the prestigious Iron Cross medal.

All told, the pioneering all-female 588th Night Bomber Regiment dropped more than 23,000 tons of bombs on Nazi targets. And in doing so, they became a crucial Soviet asset in winning World War II.

The Germans nicknamed them the *Nachthexen*, or “night witches,” because the whooshing noise their wooden planes made resembled that of a sweeping broom.

“This sound was the only warning the Germans had. The planes were too small to show up on radar... [or] on infrared locators.”

“They never used radios, so radio locators couldn’t pick them up either. They were basically ghosts.”



What has the Office been up to this last Quarter? Here is a small look!

Shasta College "Welcome Back"



Woman's Leadership Summit

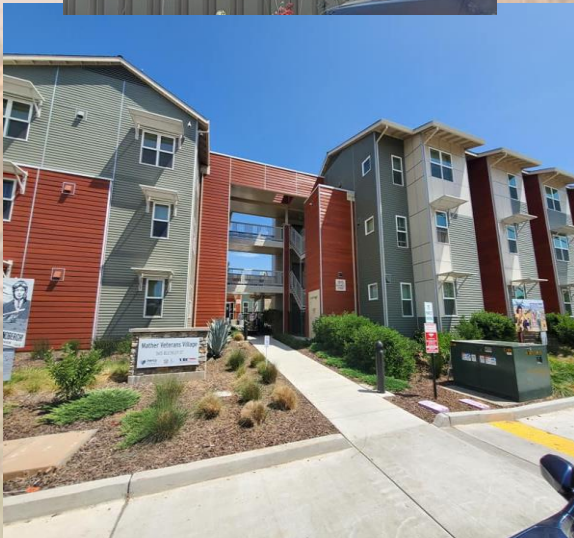


Post 9/11 Remembrance



What has the Office been up to this last Quarter? Here is a small look!

**Mather, VA Hospital
Wall of Honor
(Will the new clinic have this? Asking for a friend)**



**Mather Visit VRC Veteran Housing
*(where's our housing for
Anderson and or Redding)***

EVENTS

October ~

10/08 – Free Veterans Lunch VFW Post 1934 Oregon Street 12:00
10/11 – Mary's Pizza Shack, Redding~Thank you Veterans 15% off
10/24, 10/25, 10/26~ Shasta County STAND DOWN at the Shasta District Fairgrounds –Inside Fusaro Hall & Trinity Hall Hwy 273 Anderson CA

November~

11/03 – Daylight Savings Ends~Turn clock BACK 1 hour
11/06 ~ Power to Seniors Celebrity Soup Kitchen and Raffle 4~7pm
11/09 – Veterans Parade 10:00am
11/11 – Veterans Day
11/12 – Free Veterans Lunch VFW Post 1934 Oregon Street 12:00
11/28 – Thanksgiving

December~

12/07 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
12/10 ~ Free Veterans Lunch VFW Post 1934 Oregon Street 12:00
12/14 – Wreaths Across America
12/25 Christmas Day

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY

Just a reminder that the Shasta County Veterans Services Office
Will be closed :

November 11th Veterans day & 28th & 29th for the Thanksgiving Holiday

December 24th & 25th for the Christmas Holiday

January 1st for New Years Day

Cheers

To a joyful present & a
well remembered past.

May the Holiday Season
Bring only happiness,
health and joy.

A Very Best New Years!



Shasta County Veteran Services Office

Office: 530-225-5616

Fax: 530-245-6464

Visit our webpage for printable checklists.

vso@co.shasta.ca.us

Walk-in only, No Appointments

Hours of Operation

**Monday~Friday
8:30am – 11:30am
1pm-4pm**

Address

**1855 Shasta Street
Redding, CA 96001**



Veterans Serving Veterans

Items to bring with you:

- **DD-214**
- **Picture ID**

Remember: if you lost your separation paperwork from the military, regardless of when, we can order it for you.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

TO PROMOTE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF LOCAL VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS BY ADVOCATING ON THEIR BEHALF TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND FEDERAL APPEALS COURT IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THEM WITH BENEFITS AND SERVICES TO WHICH THEY MAY BE ENTITLED.